



## HOUSE OF DELEGATES WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

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Committees:  
Judiciary  
Veteran's Affairs &  
Homeland Security  
Banking & Insurance  
Political Subdivisions

Secretary Marlene H. Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Dortch:

A constituent has brought to my attention that a company called LightSquared wants to invest \$14 billion to launch an innovative wireless broadband network that will expand access for 260 million Americans by 2015. This proposed network will lower prices and dramatically improve wireless broadband infrastructure in rural areas like West Virginia without requiring any government funding.

GPS manufacturing companies are opposing this new network because their devices were designed to spill over into LightSquared's licensed spectrum and cause interference. LightSquared is committed to resolving these concerns and have participated in FCC Technical Work Group and independent lab testing that has produced proven mitigation proposals. Also, a number of well-known GPS experts have developed filter and antenna solutions that fix interference problems for high-precision GPS devices.

An additional round of testing conducted by the National Executive Committee for Space Based Positioning, Navigation & Timing (PNT) unfortunately could delay the deployment of LightSquared's network. This panel was Dominated by individuals with ties to GPS manufacturers and allowed no input from LightSquared. The PNT's analysis chose to assess the effects of LightSquared's ground-based network using power levels 32 times what LightSquared has committed to use and including GPS devices hand-picked by the GPS manufacturers, including discontinued and niche products.

West Virginia needs improved broadband and the private investment in wireless networks offered by LightSquared. However, GPS plays an integral role in public safety, tourism and aviation within our state and should be protected. I encourage the FCC to retake control of the testing of LightSquared's network and the GPS devices to ensure that fair and impartial testing is conducted. I am confident that with the leadership of the FCC reasonable mitigation solutions can be developed that will allow both GPS and integrated wireless broadband and satellite networks to co-exist for the benefit of our state.

Sincerely,

John D. O'Neal IV  
Delegate-District 27